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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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27 April 1968Bulgarian Liberalization and US Trade Policy

Long-term US interests in Bulgaria may suffer because of rigid US trade policies toward Sofia, according to a recent Embassy policy assessment.

The inability to offer Bulgaria the same "non-discriminatory" tariffs available to most countries diminishes US capacity to contribute to liberalizing trends in Bulgaria and could be harmful to the long-range competitive capabilities of US industry.

Doctrinal Communism is eroding in Bulgaria as it is elsewhere in Eastern Europe and the Bulgarians are showing signs of impatience with the inadequacy of their material progress and with the frustration of spirit and initiative. They have become obsessed with the promise of more rapid economic and social progress through a radical infusion of advanced Western technology. The inflexibility of US trade policy, however, frustrates Bulgarian efforts to reduce their economic dependence on and political subservience to the USSR.

The Embassy regards the suggestion that any revision of tariff or credit policies toward Bulgaria hinge on a change in Sofia's attitude toward the Vietnam war, its Soviet alliance, and its membership in the Warsaw Pact and CEMA as unrealistic. It would only be by preserving the appearance of Soviet orthodoxy on these critical points that any Bulgarian leadership which might seek to move Bulgaria towards more rapid modernization and greater liberalization could hope to avoid counter-measures on the part of the USSR and hardline elements within the Bulgarian regime.

A high-level Bulgarian trade mission led by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Penko Penkov will visit the US from 6-26 May to investigate the possibility of increasing trade exchanges. US-Bulgarian two way trade totals in 1967 amounted to seven million dollars as compared to \$20M with Belgium, \$61M with France and \$173M with West Germany in 1966.

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25X1Hungarians Broadcast Interview with New Czechoslovak Premier

The Hungarians are continuing to give wide and favorable publicity to the reforms in Czechoslovakia.

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On 24 April, Hungarian radio and TV broadcast a prime time interview with Czechoslovak premier Oldrich Cernik who presented a detailed account of the planned government changes, proposed political reforms and new directions in foreign policy.

Following the Cernik broadcast, the same interviewer talked with Hungarian Premier Fock who stated that he was satisfied with the major points of Cernik's talk and that "the Czechoslovak events are a development in a positive direction....which will provide an answer to countless problems and questions which are alive in Hungarian public life --even to those which will emerge later in the minds of Hungarian workers as a result of events". This is the first public admission by a Hungarian leader that the changes in Czechoslovakia are more than just a rerun of earlier developments in Hungary.

According to the Embassy in Budapest, the joyful Czechoslovak Embassy staff took Fock's speech as a statement of complete Hungarian backing for the democratization of Communism in their homeland.

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Tito and Tsendenbal Disagree on Communist Unity

Despite the communique issued at the end of Yugoslav President Tito's visit to Mongolia indicating that Mongolia and Yugoslavia held close or identical views on international problems, it is evident that differences do exist. The problem of international Communist unity appears to be the main source of disagreement. Tito's speech at the University of Ulan Bator stressed the idea of separate roads to Communism, while Mongolian leader Tsendenbal replied by calling for unity within the Communist movement and indicated that the Mongolian party plans to participate in the preparations for the Moscow International Communist Conference.

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Czechoslovak Prelate Says Church Is Now Free

The Apostolic Administrator of Prague, Monsignor Frantisek Tomasek, has expressed gratification that Dr. Erika Kadlecova, the new head of the government's Office for Religious Affairs, "is a firm supporter of the principle that freedom is indivisible." Kadlecova replaces a fanatical apostate "peace

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priest," who ruled the churches of Czechoslovakia hand-in-hand with the secret police. Tomasek, who is in Rome conferring with Vatican officials about the possible return to Prague of Cardinal Josef Beran, said that church-state talks on "normalization" of relations should take place soon. He also said that state officials who had supervised the activity of each bishop, had been withdrawn and that restrictions placed on the enrollment of students in seminaries had been lifted. [REDACTED]

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Albanian Foreign Minister To Visit Turkey

Albanian Foreign Minister Nesti Nase is scheduled to visit Turkey from 25 to 29 November [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nase's trip will represent the highest personal contact between the two countries since the advent of Communism in Albania.

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It is unusual to set the dates of such a trip so far in advance, but if Nase does go to Turkey, it will be a radical departure in Albanian policy, since regime leaders rarely go anywhere except China. There have been indications that the Hoxha regime is disappointed with the country's Chinese alliance and might seek a more flexible foreign policy. Nase's proposed trip would be an important step in this direction. In reporting the proposed visit, the French wire service AFP stated Nase's trip to Ankara would be preceded by a Turkish parliamentary delegation's visit to Tirana. [REDACTED]

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